

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ABU DH 01242 121221Z

44

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 121145Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2032

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 1242

EXDIS

BEIRUT FOR RAA

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: BEXP, PFOR, US, SY, TC

SUBJECT: LOCKHEED PLANES FOR SYRIA

REF: LONDON 11703

1. I CONCUR WITH LONDON EMBOFF LAMBRAKIS' COMMENT THAT MAHDI TAJIR IS SHARP OPERATOR. THERE ARE UNDOUBTEDLY WRINKLES I AM NOT AWARE OF IN THIS WHOLE BUSINESS, BUT MY FIRST IMPRESSION IS THAT MAHDI MAY BE SUGGESTING SECRETARY KISSINGER MESSAGE ON BASIS OF SOME SELF-PROMOTION EFFORT WITH SHAIKH ZAYID. IN ANY CASE, I QUESTION APPROPRIATENESS OF INVOLVING SECRETARY'S NAME IN THIS MATTER. SECRETARY DENT HAS ALREADY WEIGHED IN ON BEHALF OF SALE OF AMERICAN EQUIPMENT.

2. INSTEAD, IF DEPARTMENT APPROVES, I WOULD LIKE TO TRY IDEA OF SENDING TAJIR MESSAGE FROM ME PERSONALLY, FOR PASSING ON TO SHAIKH ZAYID, TO underscore THIS MATTER IS RELATED TO BROADER POLITICAL OBJECTIVES WHICH WE SHARE IN SYRIA AS WELL AS TO US- UAE RELATIONS. MESSAGE WOULD BE AS FOLLOWS:

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QUOTE: DEAR AMBASSADOR TAJIRCI I HAVE RECEIVED WORD FROM LOCKHEED OF

YOUR REPORTED CONCERN THAT FRENCH MAY AFTER ALL BE AWARDED SYRIAN AIRLINE CONTRACT. I WAS SURPRISED TO LEARN OF THIS BECAUSE OF YOUR CONFIDENCE WHEN WE HAD LUCHEON TOGETHER IN LONDON THAT LOCKHEED WOULD GET CONTRACT. YOU ARE AWARE, I KNOW, OF THE IMPORTANCE THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ATTACHES TO THE SALE OF AMERICAN AIRCRAFT ON THIS CONTRACT, NOT ONLY FROM A COMMERCIAL POINT OF VIEW BUT ALSO THE LARGER POLITICAL OBJECTIVES IN SYRIA ABOUT WHICH WE TALKED. I HOPE, THEREFORE, THAT YOU WILL RAISE SUBJECT WITH SHAIKH ZAYID AND SAY THAT THIS MESSAGE FROM ME IS INDICATION OF HIGH LEVEL OF INTEREST THAT EXISTS WITHIN UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ON SYRIAN AIRCRAFT CONTRACT. I WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU WOULD REMIND HIM OF DISCUSSION HE AND I HAD AT AL AIN IN WHICH WE WENT OVER SYRIAN SITUATION AND AGREED ON THE DESIRABILITY OF JOINT US-UAE COOPERATION TO REDUCE SOVIET INFLUENCE IN SYRIA. IN ADDITION, I KNOW THAT SHAIKH ZAYID WOULD WISH SYRIANS TO OBTAIN BEST POSSIBLE AIRCRAFT, AND I HAVE CONFIDENCE THAT AMERICAN EQUIPMENT IN THIS FIELD IS THE BEST AVAILABLE.

I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR DISCUSSING THE MATTER WITH SHAIKH ZAYID FRANKLY WITH THIS MESSAGE IN HAND AND URGE THAT HE WEIGH IN WITH PRESIDENT ASAD TO BUY THE TRISTAR. MY DISCUSSIONS WITH SHAIKH ZAYID HAVE BEEN MOST USEFUL IN IDENTIFYING COMMON OBJECTIVES BETWEEN THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES AND THE UNITED STATES, AND I WOULD HOPE THAT WE COULD ACT TOGETHER IN THIS FIRST PROJECT OF MUTUAL INTEREST THAT WE HAVE IDENTIFIED. WITH BEST WISHES,
SINCERELY, MICHAEL STERNER. END QUOTE

3. ACTION REQUESTED: ASSUMING DAMASCUS HAS NO OBJECTION, DEPARTMENT TO AUTHORIZE EMBASSY LONDON TO PASS THIS MESSAGE TO TAJIR.
STERNER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 SEP 1974
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Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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